

BOOK REVIEWS

TURNER, NANCY J., ADMA F. SZCZAWINSKI. 1991. **Common Poisonous Plants and Mushrooms of North America**. Timber Press, Inc., 9999 SW Wilshire, Portland, Oregon 97225. Hardbound. \$58.75. 311 pp.

An illustrated text on Poisonous Garden, House and Crop Plants and Poisonous Mushrooms. Chapter 1: Describes recognizing poisonous plants and their effects, treatment and types of plant poisons. Chapter 2: Poisonous mushrooms. Chapter 3: Poisonous Plants of Wild Areas. Chapter 4: Poisonous Garden Crop Plants (including Weeds), Trees, Shrubs, Hedge Plants, Vines, and Flowers. Chapter 5: Poisonous House Plants and Plant Products. Appendix 1: Common Fruits, Vegetables, and Beverage Plants containing potentially harmful toxins. Appendix 2: Wild Edible Plants with potentially toxic properties. Appendix 3; Some common plants causing skin irritation and/or mechanical injury. Appendix 4: Honey poisons. Appendix 5: Milk poisons. Appendix 6: some medicinal Herbs of questionable safety. There is a glossary, references and many photographs. This book is a good reference for any one interested in knowing the common poisonous plants and mushrooms. *Krishna Puttaparthi*.

CRELLIN, JOHN K. and JANE PHILPOTT. 1990. **Herbal Medicine Past and Present. Volume II A Reference Guide to Medical Plants**. Duke University Press, 6697 College Station, Durham, North Carolina, 27708. Paper \$19.95. 549 pp.

This guide records the knowledge of Appalachian herbalist A.L. Tommie Bass. The text list the plants alphabetically according to well-known vernacular names. The plant is described first by Mr. Bass then the authors' commentaries. The commentaries include references to history of the plant, uses, plant description, distribution, collection, storage, scientific names and synonyms. There are descriptions of 700 medicinal plants. Anyone interested in medicinal plants, ethnobotany and ethnopharmacology will appreciate this book. *Dotty Woodson*.

WESSON, ROBERT. 1991. **Beyond Natural Selection**. The MIT Press, 55 Hayward St., Cambridge, Mass. 02141. Hardbound \$29.95. 353 pp.

An interesting text on evolution. Chapter 1 and 2 addresses the conventional Darwinian theory. The next six chapters examine why natural selection can be considered insufficient and how inherent potentials need to be thoroughly examined. Chapter 3 discusses the incomplete fossil record of life. Chapter 4 examines living creatures that do not fit the accepted theory. Chapter 5 discusses adaptation that are useful and those with no apparent utility. Chapter 6 examines sexual habits and the need to mix genes. Chapter 7 discusses social behaviors. Chapter 8 considers the dynamics of evolution. Chapter 9 examines how genetic patterns influence evolution. Chapter 10 discusses change of pattern. Chapter 11 examines the relationship of heredity and environment and genetic response. Chapter 12 discusses the evolution of humans. Chapter 13 states the argument for the autonomy of the genome. *Dotty Woodson*.